

# California GARDEN

MARCH — APRIL 1984

*Seventy-five Cents*

VOLUME 75 No. 2

ISSN 0008-1116



# HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

MAR 3, 10  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**GARDEN STUDY COURSE II**  
Sponsors: San Diego Floral Association & Palomar District, California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Miramar College, San Diego — 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Information: Mrs. Rosenberg 295-1537

MAR 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**THURSDAY WORKSHOP WITH COLLEEN WINCHELL**  
Free Floral Crafts Instruction — Open to the Public  
San Diego Floral Association Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego — 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Information: Mrs. Winchell 479-6433

MAR 3

**FLOWER DEMONSTRATION BY PROF. KAZUHIKO KUDO**  
From Japan of the Ohara School of Ikebana  
Town & Country Convention Center, Golden West Room, Hotel Circle, San Diego  
Sat: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. — Donation: \$5 — Information: Mrs. Bourland 276-4667

MAR 3, 4

**ARBOR DAY PROMOTION — SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK**  
"Kids who plant a tree get in Free" (Trees provided)  
San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, Calif. — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.)

MAR 6  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS WITH MARTHA ROSENBERG**  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Information: Mrs. Hoyt 296-2757

MAR 10, 11

**CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS "GREEN THUMB" SHOW**  
San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Rd., Escondido, Calif.  
Sat. & Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MAR 14, 21 & APR 11  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS WITH ADRIENNE GREEN**  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Information: Mrs. Hoyt 296-2757

MAR 17, 18

**16TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF IKEBANA & JAPANESE ART — San Diego Chapter, Ikebana Int'l**  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Sat. & Sun: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Free

MAR 22, 23

**FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
"Spring Radiance—The Creative Way"  
San Marino Woman's Club, 1800 Huntington Dr., San Marino, Calif.  
Thurs: 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Fri: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — Donation \$3 — Free Parking

MAR 24, 25

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY'S 38TH ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW**  
"Orchid Olympiad"  
Al Bahr Temple, Highway 163 & Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (next to Sands Hotel), San Diego  
Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. — Donation: \$1.50

MAR 24, 25

**PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY and the SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOC.**  
"GREEN THUMB" SHOW  
San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido, Calif.  
Sat. & Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MAR 30, 31 & APR 1

**SANTA BARBARA'S 39TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW**  
Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Fri: 2:00 to 11:00 p.m.; Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Admission: \$4 — Special rates for groups, senior citizens, and Students.

MAR 30, 31 & APR 1

**9TH ANNUAL CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONGRESS SHOW**  
Miramar Convention Center — Info: Write Mrs. Gertrude Ashley, 3021 Lomita Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

MAR 31 & APR 1

**BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY'S 9TH ANNUAL SHOW "1984 Violet Olympiad"**  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

APR 2  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**"NATURE, THE MASTER SCULPTOR"**  
By BOB THOMAS, nationally prominent flower arranger and teacher.  
Sponsored by: The San Diego Floral Association — Demonstration & Tea: Donation \$6  
Veterans War Memorial Building, Park Blvd. & Morley Dr. (near the San Diego Zoo), San Diego  
Monday: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. — Information: 232-5762

APR 3, 4  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP WITH BOB THOMAS**  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Tue. & Wed: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. — \$10 per day  
Information: Mrs. Westheim 459-9485 or Mrs. Eastman 749-0691

APR 5, 12, 19, 26  
SAN DIEGO FLORAL EVENT

**THURSDAY WORKSHOP WITH COLLEEN WINCHELL**  
Free Floral Crafts Instruction — Open to the Public  
San Diego Floral Association Garden Center, Balboa Park, San Diego  
Information: Mrs. Winchell 479-6433

APR 7, 8

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT & SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETIES "GREEN THUMB" SHOW**  
San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido, Calif.  
Sat. & Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

APR 14

**SEA WORLD HORTICULTURAL SEMINAR (Adults only)**  
"The Greener Side of Sea World" — Sea World Park, 1720 S. Shores Rd., San Diego  
Information: 222-6363, Extension 2452



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# DECIDUOUS MAGNOLIAS

ERNEST B. CHEW

IN THE SAN DIEGO Area with such diversified geography, multiple microclimates and soils, there are actually few specific cultural statements that can be

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## Some Observations

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made concerning any type of plant. The deciduous magnolias are a perfect example of this.

The predominant deciduous magnolias usually available here are cultivars of the hybrid of *Magnolia quinquepeta* and *M. heptapeta*, known as *M.x soulangiana*, the Chinese or saucer magnolia.

*M.x soulangiana*: small tree with 6-inch diameter flowers (Petals purplish outside white inside) appearing before and with the leaves.

*M. stellata*, the star magnolia: small shrub or tree with profuse fragrant white strap-shaped flowers.

*M. quinquepeta* (*M. liliifolia*): a shrub to 12 feet bearing 4-inch bell-shaped blooms purplish outside, white inside. Good cut flower.

In most of the world the deciduous magnolias can be grown with great success and hybridization between species abounds. There are over 103 hybrids using *M.x soulangiana*, 33 from *M. quinquepeta*, and *M. stellata*.

As these species are native to the summer-rainfall/winter-cold areas of China and Japan where



MAGNOLIA—INDIA INK BY FRANCES FREY

they are found growing in deep soil under acid conditions, they are not always a success when grown in a Mediterranean climate. However, many specimens do grow in the coastal San Diego area.

If you have deep leachable soil in an area not too far from the influence of the ocean, deciduous magnolias will not need much care except watering deep enough to leach out the salt buildup from our water, and also feeding with a well balanced acid fertilizer in the spring.

In arid inland areas with alkaline soils and hot dry weather, it is not so easy. If the original soil does not have a deep layer of good fill soil, then raised beds would be the easiest and surest way to grow these magnolias. Probably some protection of light shade will be needed during midday in the summer. A careful watch will be needed during hot dry winds to maintain humidity up around the tree.

These winds are so drying that even when the ground is moist there are not enough roots and water movement to pull in the water needed to replace evaporation. A light misting of the tree may be needed several times a day under these conditions.

Regardless of location all deciduous magnolias require the same basic maintenance. Lots of humus in the soil will help prevent soil compaction which is extremely undesirable, so pathways should be in areas away from the tree. The only pruning that should be considered is a touch here and there for shaping. The entire twig or branch should be removed as stubs will only die back anyway and can be an inlet for disease and insects.

One of the most common problems that arises when trying to grow acid loving plants under alkaline conditions is the yellowing of leaves that occurs due to the locking-up of trace elements, particularly iron. Fortunately, chelated iron is available and the problem can be eliminated.

If the leaf edges burn it will probably be excess salts from the alkalinity of our water that have built up in the soil. This is why good drainage is absolutely essential. It is the means by which these salts can be leached away.

Scale can attack the trees at any time. Aphids like the tender new growth. During the hot dryness of summer, spider mites can defoliate the tree if not controlled.

There has been some "playing around with mother nature" to try to find ways to overcome some of the local adversities to the magnolias. Anyone who has the urge for adventure can try grafting a deciduous magnolia onto the rootstock of *Magnolia grandiflora*, the bull bay magnolia. Several good points seem to result from this combination. The *M. grandiflora* is a slow growing tree and does not immediately respond to short warming changes in the weather. As a result the materials grafted onto it are not as quick to break out in flower during hot January days. The *M. grandiflora* is also somewhat more tolerant of alkaline conditions and tends to act as a buffer between the deciduous magnolia and the alkalinity. With *M. quinquepeta*, normally a multiple-trunked shrub, a lovely small tree can be developed that is extremely satisfactory. There are several of these in the San Diego Zoo and there is one in the island of the parking lot at Presidio Park in the Mission Hills area of San Diego.

Some other members of the magnolia family do well in our area and seem to bear up better under

the stress with less effort than *M. x soulangiana*. Evergreen species that thrive here are: *M. virginiana* var. *australis*, *M. guatemalensis*, and *M. schiedean*. *Talauma hodgsonii*, from Napel, a medium-large tree with cup-shaped flowers 6 inches across and 4 inches deep with a spice-like fragrance, is growing in several locations in southern California. *Michelia doltsopa*, an extremely fragrant tree, and the tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, with bright yellow-green, lyre-shaped leaves that turn bright yellow in fall, are grown in many areas of San Diego.

Even though these other members of the magnolia family are better known, the deciduous magnolia is so striking when in full bloom that passers-by stop to admire its beauty.

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**Ernest Chew** is a highly respected horticultural consultant.

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Editor's note: At this time, due to the unseasonable warm winter, most of these trees may have finished blooming in our area.



#### OLD BELIEFS IN FLOWER POWER

ANCIENT GREEKS planted Marjoram on graves to bring peaceful sleep to the departed.

BASIL means "royal" in tribute to its medical use by Greek kings.

ROSEMARY could drive evil spirits from the house. It could make a girl pretty. It could improve the memory. According to legend rosemary grew only in the gardens of the righteous!

SAGE—the scientific name *Salvia* comes from the Latin and means salvation, because of faith in the plants' health-giving quality!

FROM ANCIENT TIMES caraway has been useful in many ways. Caraway seeds have been found in prehistoric lake dwellings in Switzerland. For true believers it has these powers: no thief can steal anything that contains it. It also keeps lovers from straying.

# IVY

## DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN ALGERIAN

PATRICIA WELLINGHAM-JONES

*HEDERA NEPALENSIS*  
'MARBLED DRAGON'  
Drawing by Stephanie Bannatyne



MENTION IVY AND what do you hear?

The response varies according to the audience. From the American Ivy Society member it is, "Have you seen the new such-and-such? It's a beauty." The woman on the street is likely to say, "That big green stuff that grows all over downtown? It's OK, it covers the bare spots." Then there is a cactus grower who bellows, "I hate ivy."

The gentleman with the well-defined point of view apologized to the "ivy lady" but stood firm on his feeling that the ivies, so popular in current landscaping, are dull and boring. Especially that Algerian thing that is taking over the world. There was a concerted groan from listeners in agreement.

But there are other ivies, interesting ivies, that are not only low in maintenance but high in attractiveness. I am referring to the *Hedera* genus with its several species, not to the other popularly called ivies—devil's, Boston, Kenilworth, grape, even poison ivy—that belong in entirely different families.

The *Hedera* genus includes *H. helix*, the common English ivy, which is the best known of them all. Another is *H. canariensis*, the Algerian ivy, well-known if not beloved, which does a superb job of

quickly filling large empty spaces with its huge glossy leaves. *H. colchica*, Persian ivy, has long oval leaves and strong covering capability. On the rare side is *H. nepalensis* from Nepal, not surprisingly, which has down-hanging leaves and orange berries. From Russia comes the leathery-leaved *H. pastuchovii*. Japan gives us the small, delicate-looking *H. rhombea*.

Ivies are classified by a system devised in 1974 by Suzanne Warner Pierot in *The Ivy Book* (Mac-Millan). The self-explanatory categories include bird's foot, fan, variegated, curls, heart-shaped, miniatures, ivy-ivies (typical lobed leaves), arborescents, and oddities. This gives one an idea of how a plant will look even without seeing it.

Currently the American Ivy Society is involved in nationwide hardiness testing, to find out what happens to ivies grown in various zones and climates. The program is in its infancy; nonetheless, some information is already filtering through. Ivies are proving surprisingly hardy, even some of the newest tender-seeming ones, in cold winter areas providing there is protection from icy winds and dryness. Mulches or snow cover give the insulation necessary for survival.

San Diego's multitude of microclimates could yield valuable data in this area. What has been discovered so far is that California's problem (and Florida's too) is not winter cold but summer sun and dryness. Ivies flourish throughout California, and especially in coastal areas, if they have a bit of shade and enough water. There are even a few tough ones such as 'Glacier,' 'Gold Dust,' and 'California,' that survive in full sun.

The following cultivars are examples of the different forms of this interesting plant which have proven useful in both home gardening and large landscaping projects. Unless otherwise stated, all are *Hedera helix*.

Our gentleman friend who hated ivy gave me a huge private chuckle when I spotted the dashing 'Gold Heart' twining its way among the cactus and euphorbia spines in his greenhouse. He did say it was an exception, partly because it was a souvenir of a wonderful visit to a chateau in France and partly because it was different and pretty. So I am sure there are many cactus growers who appreciate a touch of whimsy.

Some of the tiny ivies are ideal for bonsai, 'Spetchley,' 'Duck Foot,' 'Irish Lace,' 'Green Feather,' and 'Christian' all make unusual show pieces. Mounds of ivy surrounding a garden sculpture or emphasising specimen plants are effective eye-catchers. 'Triton' with its spear-pointed leaves, the fluffy 'Dragon Claw,' and 'Fiesta' work well.

The history buff might appreciate the very old 'Minor Marmorata' (syn. 'Discolor') or 'Pittsburgh,' the granddaddy of so many of the new cultivars.

Few things are prettier on walls than a climbing rose amidst an interesting ivy. *H. nepalensis* 'Marbled Dragon' is an exotic choice with its truly unusual veining pattern. 'Buttercup' is the yellowest of the ivies and is stunning against brick or wood. For heavy coverage a self-branching ivy such as 'California' is ideal. Areas that need to stay light and airy could use a more open grower such as 'Gold Heart' or 'Discolor.'

Often dedicated gardeners lack either space or energy to take on a large growing project. Gardening in boxes is their answer and ivy is the perfect plant. One of my favorite viewing objects is a small evergreen conifer in the middle of a tubful of bright annuals, surrounded by ivy cascading over the rim. Manageable year-round-color is the result, especially if variegated ivies such as the small 'Ingrid,' the voluptuous 'Anne Marie,' white-striped 'Zebra,' or silvery 'Sinclair Silverleaf' are used.

Patio beds or tiny doorstep gardens call for showy, yet somewhat small ivies to mix with bulbs and annuals. Good choices here would be 'Ingobert' with its fascinating random pattern of dark and light green against white, 'Stift Neuberger' with lots of white showing, the broad little 'Duck Foot' which charms you to laughter, or 'Stuttgart,' a crinkly-leaved dark green ivy.

The little ivies mentioned earlier would do well in rock gardens, as would several others of the oddities. 'Conglomerata' and 'Congesta' are both upright rather than vining, have tight stiff leaves, and form interesting sculptural shapes. A slow growing miniature like 'Jubilee' would also be good here.

As many ivies do grow larger outdoors than in, there are some which cover spacious areas in a more unusual fashion than the ubiquitous Algerian ivy of the title. 'Imp' is somewhat arrowhead shaped, 'Garland' is full and lush, 'Green Ripple' is a sharp-pointed bird's foot, and 'Manda Crested' billows in fluffy-leaved splendor. These ivies have proven hardy in my California garden and are excellent alternatives to the problem of "I'm tired of Algerian ivy but what else is there?"



*HEDERA HELIX*

'TRITON'

Drawing by Stephanie Bannatyne

I have to confess, at this late date, to being the proud owner of three outstandingly beautiful pillars of 25 year old *H. canariensis* 'Gloire de Marengo' (otherwise known as Algerian ivy variegated). They outline the patio and greet all visitors with dignity and color. The westernmost pillar has become half arborescent and is filled with tiny white blossoms in autumn and midnight blue berries all winter and spring. So, while I sympathize with those whose ivy has gotten out of control and threatens to swallow the house, dog, and children, I yet have a secret warmth in my heart for the beautiful climber.

Do try some of these ivies. You will enjoy them.

Author's note: Information on all these ivies, including their care, uses, history, and Research Center inventory, is available from the American Ivy Society, P.O. Box 530, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449.

Patricia Wellingham-Jones is editor of *The Ivy Journal*, an ivy hobbyist, and is currently working on a PhD. in psychology.

# GLAMOROUS BASKETS

SKIPPER COPE

Drawings by CAROL GLADSON

FLOWERING ANNUALS in moss baskets are always colorful and often spectacular. They can provide more beauty for the amount of space they occupy than any other medium, and with a little practice are not difficult to prepare.

To receive the greatest benefit from your efforts, choose plants with the largest blooming periods. Selecting plants with a compact growing habit minimizes the amount of pruning and pinching needed. Crowding the plants creates an appearance of abundance and achieves faster results. Frequent watering and fertilizing compensates for the overcrowding.

You may use all one kind of flower or mix different kinds that are compatible in terms of water and sun requirements. Combining several varieties can create a living bouquet. To achieve this result use varied colors and plant forms, for instance, tuberous begonias, bushy pansies, and trailing lobelias in a shady location. Good sun loving companions include ivy geraniums, petunias, spider plants, alyssum, dusty miller, lantana, nasturtium, and black-eyed susan vine. Fibrous begonias may be used in shade, semi-shade, or sunny locations.

## • PREPARATION & PLANTING MOSS BASKETS

First soak sphagnum moss in water out of a piece approximately 8 inches square, fold it over (mossy or rough side out), and fit the moss between the two top wires of the basket until a heavy collar of moss is formed around the top edge (see Fig. 1). Con-

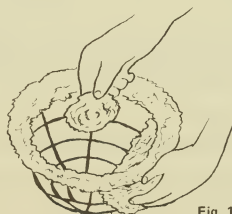


Fig. 1

tinue to cover the inner surface of the basket until it is fully lined, overlapping the pieces of moss so that no soil can leak through. The addition of a black plastic liner will help to reduce evaporation. Cut a rectangular piece of plastic 2 inches greater in length than the inner circumference of the basket and 2 inches shorter in width than its depth. To reduce fullness at the bottom cut V-shaped sections from the lower edge (see Fig. 2). Place the plastic inside the basket below the collar, pin securely using hair pins or plant pins, but leave a 1-inch opening at the

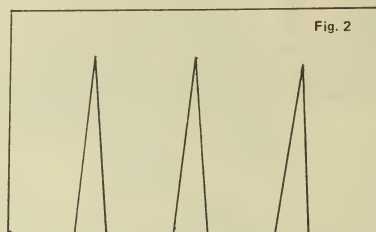


Fig. 2

2-inch shorter than the depth of the basket.

bottom.

Next, put about 1½ inches of moist potting soil mix in the bottom. Cut holes in the plastic at the soil level and then poke your fingers through the holes from both sides, working it large enough to insert a plant from a pony pack or a 2-inch pot. Be sure to make the hole large enough for the crown to grow. From the outside of the basket insert each plant so that the root ball lies on the soil surface and the crown of the plant is even with the inside of the moss lining (see Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Cover each row of plant roots with about 2 inches of soil. Continue the procedure until you reach the moss collar. Fill with potting mix to within an inch of the top and plant the top of the basket as you would any flower pot (see Fig. 4). The bottom may be planted also, using the same procedure as for the sides.



Fig. 4

## • CULTURE

Hang the finished basket in a location suitable for the type of plants you selected. The less it is



## 50 YEARS AGO

by Carol Greentree

April/May, 1934

"Spring at Braemar" by Ada Perry

Spring at Mrs. F. T. Scripps' garden at Braemar was enjoyed by the San Diego Floral Association and guests Sunday, April 8.

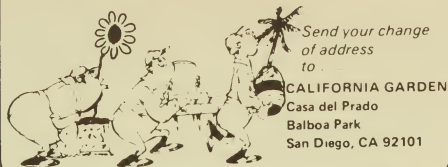
Dressed in white Mrs. Scripps received her visitors personally and escorted them to points that held the most interest, such as the Ann Hathaway cottage with its lilacs in bloom, the English walled garden where wild primroses of the British Isles were to be found, or the fuchsia walk, hung with blossoms colored like the rouges of some famous cosmetician. There were also tulips and Virginia stocks blooming under the pink wisteria (flowering for the first time this year, and a delicious color), and the Japanese garden with its delicate Japanese maple and the lath rotunda nearby, a tree fern in its center and eight great uniformly sized staghorn ferns hanging on surrounding arches.

Expressions of pleasure were showered on Mrs. Scripps, many of them from eastern people who found the variety of plants amazing.

Of English birth, the lady of this garden has spent many years of cultivating it to its present point. It is really a garden city located on the level land at the extreme end of the smooth blue waters of Mission Bay. Huge palms, robed with their cloaks of leaf fans surround the grounds. There are cypress trees, the only growing things planted here when she came, as tall as ship masts with dark, angular crowns of foliage. Below the heights of the palms and the cypress the garden luxuriates around some half dozen cottages, hobbies of Mrs. Scripps and apart from her home located on the bay side of the property. There are also a number of lath houses and pergolas.

The plants from the English primroses mentioned, and ragged robins—another English wildflower—to begonias, avocados and figs. There are dozens of marvelous roses, bush and climbing. A number of brilliant-flowering eucalyptus are growing about. There is a bed of violets and forget-me-nots under a palm leaf thatch and another of maidenhair fern, shaded under a canopy of lantana. In a formal section hedges of lavender lantana surround beds of stocks and other sweet, colorful flowers.

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# ORNAMENTAL GINGERS

DONALD P. WATSON

WHILE GINGER USUALLY brings to mind the common spice obtained from the underground stems of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, this is but one of over a thousand species in the family Ziniberaceae (sensu lato, including Costaceae). Many of the other species are among the most beautiful tropical and subtropical garden flowers.

Most American gardeners know the ornamental gingers only as florist's specimens, from conservatory collections, or when viewed in a subtropical garden.

• **Red Ginger** *Alpinia purpurata* (Vieill.) K. Schum

Grown for its ornamental value both as a garden plant and as a cut flower. The inflorescence consists of a cylinder of deep red bracts on an axis up to a foot in length. Each bract envelops an inconspicuous white flower developing in sequence from the base of the inflorescence towards the tip.

Under good growing conditions the plants will reach a height of 15 feet with two rows of alternating leaves in one plane. New plants germinate and develop along the flower bracts.

• **Shell Ginger** *Alpinia Zerumbet* (Pers.) Burt & Smith

Bears bell-shaped, waxy-white flowers closely clustered on an arching inflorescence. The persistent waxy-white bracts and petals with red tips which resemble small shells make this ginger popular as a cut flower and ornamental plant. The flower stalks are borne on long stems often 12 feet in length. This ginger will withstand some frost.

• **Indian Head Ginger** *Costus spicatus* (Jacq.) Sw.

Dense cylindrical cluster of dull-red smooth, overlapping bracts about 3 to 4 inches long. At any one time a solitary or pair of narrow yellow flowers is found extending from these bracts.



NICOLAIA ELATIOR Drawing by PAT MALEY.

The inflorescences are borne at the end of 6- to 8-foot, smooth, often ungainly stems. However, the plant can be attractive if it is grown where there is plenty of room for its natural development.

• **Tumeric, Olena Ginger** *Curcuma domestica* Valetton

Stemless or short-stemmed cluster of leaves arising from the underground stem. Later a cylindrical flower head which consists of large, pale-green, pouch-like, curved bracts appears from among the leaf bases with pale yellow flowers among these bracts. The upper bracts of the head are larger, flowerless, and pale green to pinkish in color. The ground rhizome (tumeric) is important as a condiment, used as an ingredient in curries.

• **White Ginger** *Hedychium coronarium* Koenig in Retz.

The spike-like terminal inflorescence consists of numerous, tightly overlapping green bracts. Two or three white flowers are found in the axil of each bract. These are made up of one large butterfly-shaped notched lip with a pale heart-shaped spot on the lower end of the inflorescence. The plants grow up to 6 feet tall with two rows of alternate leaves all in one plane.

• **Torch Ginger** *Nicolaia elatior* (Jack) Horan

Beautiful rose-red cone-like inflorescences are borne on heavy naked stalks up to 6 feet tall and



scattered among the tall vegetative, leafy stems. The flower heads consist of large, showy, wax-like red bracts with a narrow white margin. The lowermost bracts are greatly enlarged, wavy, flowerless, and form a collar for smaller, closely overlapping bracts containing small flowers.

• **Jamaica Ginger, Edible Ginger** *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe

Grown primarily for its underground stem which is valued as a condiment. The flower stalks are separate from the leafy stems 1 to 2 feet tall and bear a conical or cone-shaped head of light green closely overlapping bracts. The flowers are inconspicuous yellow-green and purple.

The leaves are long, smooth, narrow, and in two alternate rows in one plane. The whole roots (underground stem called hands) are harvested after the leafy stems wither. They are used fresh for flavoring, especially in Chinese food and ginger ale. In Jamaica large quantities are grown, dried, and exported for use throughout the world.

The fragrance of the white gingers (*Hedychium*) is truly an Hawaiian experience, long celebrated in song:

"White ginger blossoms cool and fragrant,

sweeter than the rose, fairer than the moonlight, white ginger blossoms from the mountains fill the thirsty air with exotic fragrance rare." (R. Alex Anderson)

### GENERAL CULTURAL SUGGESTIONS

Temperature: night 62° to 65° F.  
day, 80° to 85° F.

Humidity: high for all listed genera (*Costus* and *Zingiber* are tolerant of humidity as low as 30%.)

Light: diffuse for most listed genera, but bright for *Nicolaia*.

Soil: two parts peat, one part each loam and sand, for *Alpinia*, *Hedychium*, *Nicolaia* and *Zingiber*. Rich, sandy loam with a trace of peat for *Costus*. Peat and leafmold with a small amount of loam for *Curcuma*. *Zingiber officinale* may require less peat than indicated.

Water gingers generously as growth becomes strong; *Curcuma* and *Hedychium* may be grown wet as shoots and blossoms develop, others moist. Water somewhat less after flowers fade. *Curcuma* and *Zingiber officinale* require a dormant period, water almost entirely withheld, following the flowering period.

Donald P. Watson, Ph.D., Prof. Emeritus, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Hawaii.

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# PRIMER FOR GROWING DAZZLING DAHLIAS

W.B. LOHMAN

DAHLIAS AT THEIR best are so spectacular and breathtaking that many would-be-growers think there is something mysterious or difficult about their culture. In reality, they need the basic requirements of any plant—water, nutrients, pest control, and some easily learned specialized handling of dahlia tubers.

March is the time to mix compost and other organic matter into the garden soil to improve or maintain friability.

The best time to plant dahlias in mild climates is after the first of April and then after a few warm days. Dahlias require plenty of sunlight and porous soil with good drainage. They will continue to bloom from 90 to 100 days after planting until November, or in cold areas until frost, if kept watered, fed, and free of insects.

Allow a 2- or 3-foot square space for each plant of large or medium dahlia varieties. Pompons and other smaller varieties require only about 18 inches square. Before planting, drive a 5- to 6-foot stake 12 inches into the ground where the tuber is to be planted, then dig a hole near the base of the stake (Fig. 1). Bone meal, potting mix, or other soil

amendments may be added at this time. Place a tuber in the hole, at a slight angle, 2 to 3 inches from the stake. Be sure there is an eye or shoot on the crown of the tuber and plant it with the eye up, cover with soil, and tamp gently. In sandy soils, tubers should be planted in a 6-inch deep hole, covered with 2 to 3 inches of soil. The hole will gradually fill in; until it does, it makes a good watering basin. In heavy clay or loam soils a 4-inch deep hole and a 2-inch covering is sufficient.

Water and keep the soil damp, but not wet, until a sprout breaks through the soil. After that, water when the top of the soil is dry, normally about once or twice a week. Cultivate the soil around each plant thoroughly to aid water absorption and keep weed free. Later, when the plants are about 14 inches high, refrain from cultivating close to the plants since feeder roots are developing and could be damaged easily.

## TOPPING

Topping produces a bushier, stronger, and more floriferous plant. Nip out the tip of giant and large-flowered cultivars when they have produced two to three sets of leaves (Fig. 2). Three to five sets of leaves should be retained on medium, small, and miniature dahlias. As the plant grows tie it loosely to the stake as necessary.

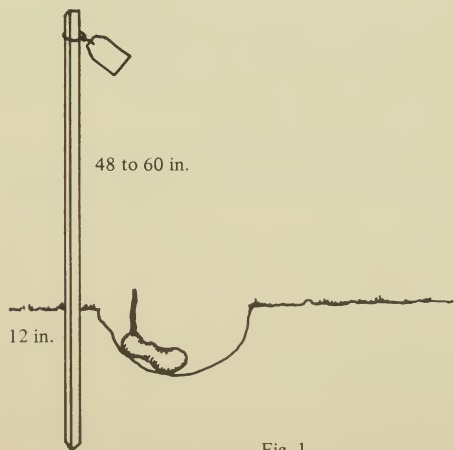


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

This plant has been topped above the third set of leaves allowing six branches to grow. Each branch starts to develop at the point where the leaf joins the stem.

### DISBUDING AND DEBRANCHING

Disbud and debranch to obtain larger blooms and longer stems. Usually there are three buds on a stem. Retain the central bud, removing both laterals while still small. When disbudding to obtain maximum size of the large-flowered varieties, remove one to three branches at the leaf axis below the terminal pair of leaves (Fig. 3).



FIG. 3

EACH BRANCH WILL PRODUCE THREE BUDS AT THE FLOWERING TERMINAL. REMOVE THE TWO SIDE BUDS. TO PROMOTE A LARGER AND STRONGER BLOOM, THE SECOND AND THIRD SET OF BUDS CAN BE REMOVED.

### WATERING & FERTILIZING

As the flowers start maturing, keep them picked and well-watered to encourage further growth, however, do not be fooled into over-watering when the foliage goes limp on very hot days. Apply a side-dressing of high-phosphate/potash fertilizer, usually a 5-10-10 mixture, to encourage good tuber formation and deeper color in the blooms. Feeding every 3 to 4 weeks with this fertilizer will keep the plants blooming.

### DIGGING AND STORING

Tubers should be dug in December in frost-free areas, but usually October in other areas to protect them from frost damage. Cut the stalk about 5 inches

above the soil level and attach a label to the stump. Gently lift the clump, taking care not to break the tubers from the stalk. The clump may be washed with a light spray and dried. (Before dividing, I dip the clumps in a mild household bleach solution and let them dry.) At this time they may be divided by wedge-shaped cuts (with a razor or sharp knife) on the stalk near its union with the tuber (Fig. 4). If you are



FIG. 4

WHEN DAHLIA ROOTS ARE DIVIDED FROM THE CLUMP, EACH ROOT MUST HAVE AN EYE.

uncertain about which bump is the eye, divide the clump into three or four pieces and wait until the eyes swell in the spring before dividing further. Treat the tubers with a fungicide-insecticide dust or a similar solution and let dry.

Store the divided tubers in slightly moistened vermiculite in plastic bags or plastic-lined boxes in a cool place in as even temperature as possible, 50° F. is ideal. I store mine against a north wall. Allow sufficient air circulation by punching small holes in the containers. Undivided tuber clumps may be stored upside down in a cool place. Keep some soil around them until spring and divide when the eyes or shoots appear.

Dahlia tubers for all desired sizes may be obtained from dahlia specialists, catalogs, nurseries, or other dahlia growers, usually members of a dahlia society.

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Drawings courtesy of *Dahlias of Today* 1983, Puget Sound Dahlia Association.  
Graphic by Marj Master.

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Mr. Lohman has been growing dahlias for 30 years and has won many prizes at dahlia shows.

# PAPHIOPEDILUMS

RAYMOND E. LANDON

PAPHIOPEDILUM, NATIVE TO a large area in the southern part of Asia and to the islands off the coast, is a large and fascinating genus of seventy or more species. These compactly growing plants remind one of jade-green fans. Foliage is perennial and varies in coloration from solid green to mottled, tessellated foliage. The waxy textured flowers in multiple combinations of green, brown, yellow, purple, and white last for a long time, both on and off the plant. The number of flowers per spike ranges from one on up through 20 blooms. *Paphiopedilum* species and



PAPHIOPEDILUM PHILIPPINENSE Drawing by Pat Maley.

## THE SLIPPER ORCHIDS

many of their primary hybrids have the capacity to be in bloom throughout the entire year. Some plants have successive blooming phases of new growth maturing and subsequently blooming, while other plants may stay in bloom with one flower spike throwing out sequential buds.

There are other slipper orchids native to the United States and some native to South and Central America which should not be confused with the *Paphiopedilum*. These plants have their own unique cultural requirements.

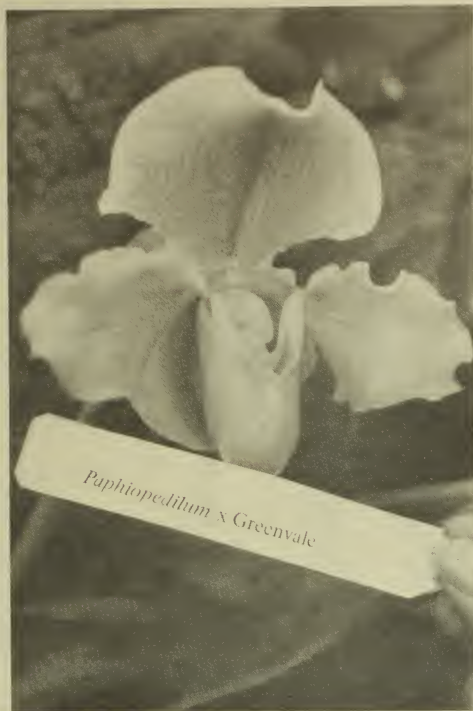
Structurally speaking, paphiopedilums differ a great deal from other orchids. As they do not have pseudobulbs, which allow water storage, specific cultural requirements must be met in order to achieve the maximum blooming/growing potential of these orchids. They are challenging, but not difficult to grow. Plants of this genus have been in cultivation since before 1845. Today, new species are being discovered and new varieties are being created through hybridizing.

The following is a general overview on how to

grow paphiopedilums, commonly called paphs. It should be remembered that a multiplicity of conditions must be met to provide optimum success. It is not possible to give exact data concerning cultural practices that will fit everyone's exact needs, but there are key cultural practices, if followed, that will make growing paphs a rewarding experience. Every grower must develop his/her own program following a few guidelines and allowing for some degree of flexibility.

**LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS** for paphiopedilums can range from low-light exposure to deep shade, or high-light exposure to bright sun, depending upon the geographical location of the grower or native habitat of the plants. In general, filtered light works well for paphs. Filtering can be attained by the use of shade cloth with 55, 63, or 73 percent shading capacity. The degree of shade will be determined by two factors: the geographic location of the greenhouse and the time of year. For example, the strap-leaved paphs such as *P. philippinense rothschildianum* prefer a lighter environment as do their primary hybrids and other hybrids of this particular group.

**TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS** range from 55° F. to 80° F. Temperature specifications are determined



centage of moisture in the air the overall health of the plant can and will suffer. A plant lacking proper humidity will have shriveled leaves, dry plant surface, and any buds which have been initiated may abort and brown off. Too much humidity and not enough air circulation will bring on the additional problems of plant pests (e.g. spider mites, mealybugs, etc.) and plant diseases (e.g. erwinia bacterium and fungal rot).

Circulation of air is paramount to a healthy paphiopedilum plant and for this reason, in a greenhouse setting, it is advantageous to have some sort of fan to circulate the air. When the temperature exceeds 70° F. fan and air circulation should be increased, and air circulation can be decreased when the temperature declines.

**WATERING REQUIREMENTS** are largely dependent upon the overall plant size, the potting medium, and the pot size. In general, paphs should be watered at least once a week during periods of excessively high temperatures, and watering should be decreased during the winter and during periods of inclement weather. A rule of thumb is to keep the soil evenly moist around the plant. Avoid getting water down into the fans as rot may occur.

An important factor is drainage. If the potting mix is very loose, water may be needed more frequently. If the mix is more compacted and made of smaller particles, watering must be cut down as this type of mix holds water longer. Experiment with different types of potting mixtures and see which works best for you.

**FERTILIZING REQUIREMENTS** depend upon specific environmental conditions and growing practices (e.g. potting soil, growing set-up, etc.). The basic chemical requirements which one needs to consider when growing paphs are:

- Nitrogen - required for growth
- Phosphorous - necessary for bloom
- Potash - for good root growth and strong stem development.

The most widely used commercial fertilizers have the formulas of 5-1-1, 8-8-8, 10-5-5, 30-10-10, and 20-20-20, (if it is available). Some growers say that every other week is an optimum fertilizing schedule others may say that monthly fertilizing is adequate. I use a half strength fertilizer solution and feed more frequently during periods of active plant growth and feed less often during periods of dormancy (while they are in bloom) or during the winter when growth slows down.

**SOIL AND POTTING REQUIREMENTS** vary, but among the various soil mixes which are available I find that the following two mixes work well and meet the needs of my plants adequately.

by the particular variety of plant being grown. Most plants of this genus require a 15° to 20° F. temperature drop at night to initiate bud formation. It should be noted that too great a temperature extreme, one way or the other, could affect the plant's blooming cycle or damage the plant. The following four steps, if followed, will facilitate and ensure a good percentage of blooming plants in the greenhouse:

(1) Try to keep summer day temperatures under 80° F. High temperatures can literally cook a plant. Foliage becomes soft and limp and many times does not recover from the excessive heat.

(2) Keep night temperatures within the 65° to 68° F. range, as vegetative growth initiates well at these temperatures. Air circulation here is a must as pockets of moisture can cause complications such as fungal rot.

(3) To initiate flowering, night time temperatures of 55° to 60° F. should be maintained for approximately 2 to 8 weeks.

(4) Once flowers are induced, greenhouse temperatures should be held within 60° F. during the daytime.

**HUMIDITY REQUIREMENT** is approximately 50 percent relative humidity. Without the proper per-

- (1) Miller Mix: 2 cu. ft. seedling grade bark  
 ½ cu. ft. perlite  
 13 oz. dolomite lime  
 7 oz hoof and horn meal  
 3 oz. superphosphate

- (2) My Mix: Miller mix with the addition  
 of medium grade cattelleya  
 bark and hardwood charcoal  
 chips

The addition of charcoal precludes the soil turning sour, and addition of the larger bark facilitates drainage and prevents an excessive amount of root rot.

PESTS AND DISEASES can be controlled. The pests most commonly encountered are spider mites, mealybugs, aphids, and soft/hard scale. All of these creatures can be kept under control with inert insecticidal sprays which contain no oil. The sprays most widely used are Malathion 50, Cygon 2E, and the powdered form of Orthene. Liquid Orthene deforms blooms. (Ed's Note: Normally, trade names are not used, but an exception is made here due to the side effects of some sprays on these plants.)

In addition to crawling creatures threatening the overall health of paphs, one bacterium, *Erwinia cypripedii*, can wipe out an entire plant within a 24 to 46 hour period. It causes soft, brown, dead areas near the old growth and there is a decided odor which emanates from the rotting vegetation. These dead areas spread quickly to the remaining healthy areas of the leaf, and soon spread to neighboring growths. Treatment of this bacterial invasion is as follows:

(1) Isolate the affected plant and remove dead growth.

(2) Use a broad spectrum fungicide/bactericide.

(3) Keep infected plant(s) isolated until all signs of the problem disappear.

To preclude an invasion of *erwinia* one needs only to follow these guidelines:

- Have adequate air circulation to dry plants quickly after watering;
- Keep humidity low enough to inhibit rot;
- Keep any plant suffering from rot dry until the rot is under control;
- Increase Ph of the soil to a range of 7.0 to 7.2 (*erwinia* dislike a high Ph);
- Use a fungicide/fungicidal spray every 6 months;

-Keep all pests under control as they can track *erwinia* on their bodies or feet to other plants;

-Move a suspected *erwinia* victim out of the growing environment so as not to infect neighboring plants.

## POTTING PAPHIOPEDILUMS

(1) Repot when soil mixture shows apparent signs of breaking-down. In general, plants can stay happily in the same soil medium for one to three years depending upon the pot size and the medium being used.

(2) Do not overplant or overpot the plants. Pack soil in the pots finger tight, but do not pack the soil so tightly that new or existing roots are crushed or broken. Should a plant not have a thriving root system, use a tie or stake to anchor the plant until an adequate root system develops.

(3) Do not continually divide large plants just because they may look crowded. Paphs, when allowed to grow into large mature massive plants, tend to produce better flowers and more growth. If repotting is needed, repot before new plant growth initiates, usually just after the plant has finished flowering. I have found that plants can be repotted at almost any time throughout the year, so long as it is after they have finished blooming.

Among some of the easier species to grow are *Paphiopedilum insigne*, *P. hirsutissimum*, *P. callosum*, and *P. philippinense*. All of them can be grown out-of-doors.

Paphiopedilums are rewarding orchids to grow and if you lose a few, as we all do, this only improves your ability to grow them. We all tend to learn from our mistakes and through experience.

Author's note: For more information on these slipper's of the orchid world, join a local orchid society or contact the American Orchid Society, 84 Sherman St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Editor's note: Ray works in the orchid department of one of San Diego's long established nurseries. Paphs are one of the favorite plants that he grows in his home greenhouse.

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**GLAMOROUS BASKETS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41)

exposed to wind the better. Any hanging basket of porous material exposes additional surface to air circulation and moisture evaporates more rapidly than from a container on the ground. The plastic liner helps reduce evaporation. The moss collar helps by keeping water from spilling over the sides when watering, forcing it to flow down through the basket and to the plant roots.

Watering depends on the weather, location, and the plants selected. Inspect the basket daily by feeling the underside and checking its weight. If it feels light and dry, it is time to water. Never allow the plants to wilt. Water thoroughly with a watering wand from the top of the basket, not the sides. Continue until water runs freely from the bottom.

Spent flowers should be removed immediately and the plants pinched back to keep them full. A few old-fashioned hair pins or plant pins come in handy for controlling errant shoots or vines.

Keeping a moss basket neat and colorful requires continuous feeding and grooming. Fertilize every two weeks with a high-phosphorus fertilizer to promote blooming. Every fourth feeding, use a fertilizer with more nitrogen. Soil should always be moist before fertilizing.

Although it is true that hanging baskets require a little more vigilance and care than other containers, their abundant flowers and colorful beauty more than repay you for the extra time and effort. Try them, you'll like them!

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# EGGPLANT, THE BEAUTIFUL

ROSALIE GARCIA

THAT SHINY ELONGATED purple ball of a fruit used as a vegetable is common enough, but who eats it? If there is some family of Greek or Italian ancestry, there may be a tradition of eggplant and cheese dishes, but otherwise most Americans just skip it and do not really know of its delicate flavor.

It is a subtropical vegetable originating in the dry areas of Southern Europe and areas bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Those peoples have eaten it with the cheese from their goat milk as long as we have records and before. Eggplants thrive in the hot late summer and fall days. In southern California we have similar climates and our markets abound in mounds of them.

White egg-sized eggplants and yellow ones only a little larger were evidently the first ones taken from the slopes around the Mediterranean. Grown now only as ornamentals, they are more of a novelty patio plant. That is the only way I have ever seen them grown and whether they are edible and to our taste, I have not learned.

Because of their beauty, I learned that eggplants serve other purposes than eating, after I took a friend a basket of vegetables, including two fine plump shiny eggplants. A week or so later I again went to this friend's house and found most of the vegetables artistically arranged with the eggplants used as the central focus. She said they were just too pretty to eat.

Perhaps my experience is limited, but I only remember seeing eggplant on a menu of one restaurant in California and it was a Greek one, but I am sure it must be on the menu in many Japanese, Italian, and vegetarian restaurants. It have never even had it at a garden club luncheon or any California home.

Big slices of eggplant cut in strips, dipped in an egg batter, and fried are often served with steak, chops, or fried chicken in Southern homes. Also, they serve casseroles of cubed eggplant, tomatoes, onions, and maybe okra, covered with a cheese sauce. Restaurants usually serve it in individual casseroles. In New Orleans, it may be included in a gumbo with okra or in casseroles with cheese as a main dish.

The long slender Orientals are edible when they are an inch or two long. Some people like them better at that stage when they can be fried whole. More mature ones are often sliced and dipped in a



batter before being fried.

I even know one real *afficianado* who claims she stews the cubed eggplant and eats it with a little butter, pepper, and salt. But that is the nearest to a purist, I have met. Most people think it needs something more. I have never heard from any one who eats only raw vegetables, brag about how they put strips on the plate with a dip for an appetizer. The texture borders on tough, and the taste is bland. Cooking brings out the flavor. There is little aroma.

Since eggplants is not a staple vegetable with most Americans and have a fairly short season in late summer and fall, they can become a "company" dish. They appeal to the imaginative cook who can combine them with cheese, eggs, onions, garlic, and tomatoes to make a meal that most will eat. Some cooks stuff the large globular ones with various left-overs and bake them, but their beautiful purple skin turns to a drab brown. The casserole and deep frying methods invite more flavor, and the cheeses, tomatoes, and peppers are most compatible.

## • CULTURE

To have garden fresh eggplant, one must start in late March or April by planting seeds in a bed in a sunny window or in a hot bed. The plants are slow growing and should reach a height of 5 or 6 inches in

June or even July before being set out. It plants are bought in the nursery and they are only 2 or 3 inches high, set them outside to harden and let them grow in the pony pack to 4 to 6 inches before setting them out in good loose soil.

You will be growing the big ones and/or the long slim ones, often called Oriental. The latter are heavier bearers and last longer. If the fruits are kept cut off, the plants will keep on bearing until it gets very chilly or there is frost. Because of their size, the big ones should be thinned to no more than 4 to a plant.

The first time grower of eggplant must have patience, for it is a plant that takes its time. From seed planting to setting out is a good 10 weeks, and it is that much longer before the purple fruits are ready to eat. The large ones are ripe and ready to cut when they are firm to the touch, and shiny and glossy to the eye. Do not pull them off. Cut the stem with a sharp knife. The long, slim Orientals have a small stem and may be twisted off, but cutting is better. Both will keep 2 or 3 weeks in normal temperatures, but then will begin to lose moisture and sort of wilt. They will keep a little longer in a cool, dark place.

Since most people want only a few plants, eggplants fit well into pot culture. They like a good loose soil and constant moisture, but not soggy—good drainage is the key. Three or four pots, especially of the Oriental, will furnish all the eggplants a family will want. They are decorative plants with dark leaves that are sort of fuzzy and have pretty purple blossoms.

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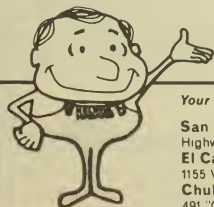
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Photo by BILL GUNTHER

## GLEANNING THE ALLEYS

BESS M. TITTLE

EVER GO MARKETING along the sidewalks and back alleys of your city? A hidden treasure of nutritional goodies hangs from the plants there, free for the picking for those with sharp eyes and informed minds.

Almost every child has had the experience of sucking sweet nectar from lilac blossoms or honeysuckle blooms. Few people know that many ornamental shrubs and trees bear edible fruits and berries. Along every street and alley, a mine of food rich in minerals and vitamins remains unused, except possibly by the birds.

One evergreen shrub which grows in many parts of the country is the eugenia shrub, commonly used as a hedge. The clusters of small rose-purple or lavender-pink berries appear in the winter and are crisp and sweet in fruit salads.

In the western coastal states, natal plums grow as profusely as dandelions. The shrubs are frequently used as ornamental hedges, thriving on ocean winds and salt spray. They bear 1- to 2-inch plum-shaped red fruit which have the quality of sweet cranberries. Natal plums grow on bushes in parking lots, along the beaches, in yards, and in commercial areas throughout my home town of San Diego. Few know the fruit, when ripe (dark red and soft), is good fresh or cooked into sauces or preserves and high in vitamin C.

Edible weeds and grasses, such as poke weed, dandelion greens, or nasturtiums are known to most aware people these days as food sources, but pineapple, strawberry, and Chilean guava, available in most western states, are too often left to the birds. The pineapple guava grows on shrubs or small trees, bear-

ing inch-wide flowers with four fleshy edible white petals, tinged purple on the inside. The petals themselves can be added to fruit salad. The 1- to 4-inch oval fruit—grayish-green—has a soft, sweet, pineapple-flavored pulp.

The strawberry guava tree has dark red fruit, appearing in the fall and winter, with sweetish-tart white flesh and a somewhat resinous taste. The fruit is best made into jelly or paste.

The Chilean guava has purplish or reddish small fruit in early summer, with a fragrance of baked apples. It can be eaten fresh or cooked into jams and jellies.

While few berries of the dogwood tree are edible, the Cornelian cherry dogwood carries bright scarlet clusters in the autumn, delicious and preserves. This tree blossoms in February or March in clustered star-like yellow blossoms.

An evergreen shrub-tree, the strawberry tree, develops red or yellow berries, about three-fourths inch around from clusters of small white or greenish-white flowers, and produces in fall and winter these edible but mealy, strawberry-like fruit.

Better known is the rose apple, often sold by nurseries as eugenia. The fruit is greenish, yellow, or blush-pink, round, sweet and mild, with the fragrance of rosewater. Crab apples, persimmons, and pomegranates are also the products of ornamental shrubs, with obvious edible use. In our western states, olive trees are also grown in home gardens and in public places, but anyone who has had the sad experience of tasting olives in their raw state—and been able to unpucker their lips—knows they must be processed before eating.

One unusual fruit is the jujube, which appears in the fall—shiny, reddish-brown, resembling dates, hanging from the branches of house-high trees. The fruit is sweet like an apple and can be candied or dried.

The 15- to 30-foot loquat tree has small white flowers, and, later, 1 to 2 inches in diameter orange to yellow fruit which is sweet and aromatic. It generally has a large seed or seeds in the center. Loquats are great in fruit salad or preserved in a chutney-like sauce.

Other edible fruit and berries are kaffir plum, pindo palm seed, agave tips, prickly pears, elderberries, Catalina cherries, manzanita berries, juniper berries (used to flavor beef stew and gin), meyer lemons, and mulberries.

A special bonus for wandering your neighborhood, harvesting orphan fruit and berries, is exercise. No exercise is as universally beneficial as walking. If you have to stretch a bit to reach choice fruit, so much the better.

While you are researching the edible fruit and berries in your locality, be sure and list those which are known to be poisonous—not to be slipped to your mother-in-law, but to be avoided. The Jerusalem cherry, for instance, is a common pot plant and its

scarlet fruit, resembling miniature tomatoes, may be poisonous. Children should be taught not to taste such plants. The castor bean—shiny, black but poisonous—is particularly tempting to little ones.

Beautiful to look at in bloom but poisonous in all parts is the ubiquitous oleander. Beware!

In addition to the nutritional bonus to be found from unexpected sources, a variety of citrus, banana, fig, plum, and other fruit trees abound in southern California, temptingly within arm's reach. In our community, elderly home owners or indifferent young tenants neglect the fruit, leaving it to rot on the trees. Friends have found it pays to offer to bring a ladder and help harvest for a percentage of the fruit. Absentee landlords have been open to negotiation on their fruit-heavy trees.

A barter situation works well on a "I'll pick for you if you are not able to do it yourself" basis. When my friends approached one elderly couple with loquat, banana, and citrus trees, loaded with unpicked fruit, they were told, "Take all you want. We can't use it." A few loaves of banana bread and jars of loquat jam were brought in repayment.

Do try unwinding with a sprightly walk through your city streets and back alleys, gleaning as you stroll. Enjoy!

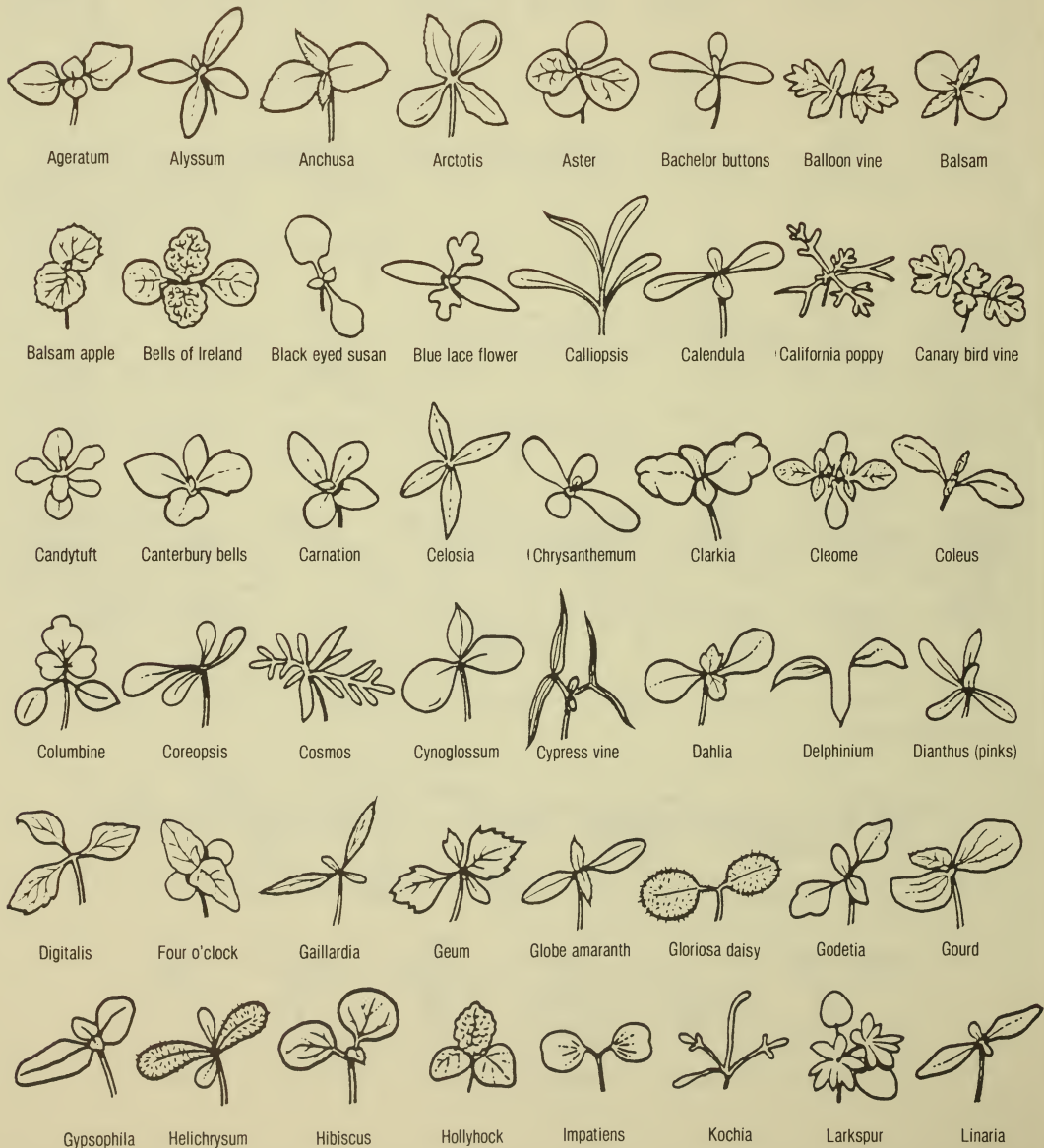
**Bess M. Tittle** is a free-lance writer who lives in the Point Loma area of San Diego, California where lush growth is found in many alleys and along the streets.

Editor's note: Since common names vary from locale to locale, the botanical names are listed below for plants mentioned in the above article.

Catalina cherry - *Prunus lyonii*  
Castor bean - *Ricinus communis*  
Cornelian cherry dogwood - *Cornus mas*  
Dandelion - *Taraxacum officinale*  
Eugenia shrub - *Syzygium paniculatum* (*Eugenia myrtifolia*)  
Elderberry - *Sambucus caerulea*  
Chilean guava - *Ugni molinae*  
Pineapple guava - *Feijoa sellowiana*  
Strawberry guava - *Psidium l. longipes* (*P. cattleianum*)  
Jerusalem cherry - *Solanum pseudocapsicum*  
Jujube - *Ziziphus jujuba*  
Kaffir plum - *Harpephyllum caffrum*  
Loquat - *Eriobotrya japonica*  
Mulberry - *Morus nigra* and *M. alba*  
Nasturium - *Tropaeolum majus*  
Natal plum - *Carissa grandiflora*  
Olive - *Olea europaea*  
Persimmon - *Diospyros kaki* and *D. virginiana*  
Pokeweed - *Phytolacca americana*  
Pomegranate - *Punica granatum*  
Prickly pear - *Opuntia acanthocarpa*  
Rose apple - *Syzygium jambos*  
Strawberry tree - *Arbutus unedo*

# KNOW YOUR SEEDLINGS

## FLOWER SEEDLINGS



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Lobelia



Lupine



Marigold



Mignonette



Moonflower



Morning glory



Nasturtium



Nemesis



Nicotiana



Nierembergia



Pansy



Petunia



Phlox



Portulaca



Pyrethrum



Salpiglossis



Salvia



Scabiosa



Scarlet runner  
bean



Shasta daisy



Shirley poppy



Schizanthus



Snapdragon



Stock



Sunflower



Sweet pea



Sweet william



Tithonia



Verbena



Vinca



Wallflower



Zinnia

## HERB SEEDLINGS



Basil



Borage



Catnip



Chervil



Chives



Coriander



Dill



Fennel



Hyssop



Marjoram



Sage

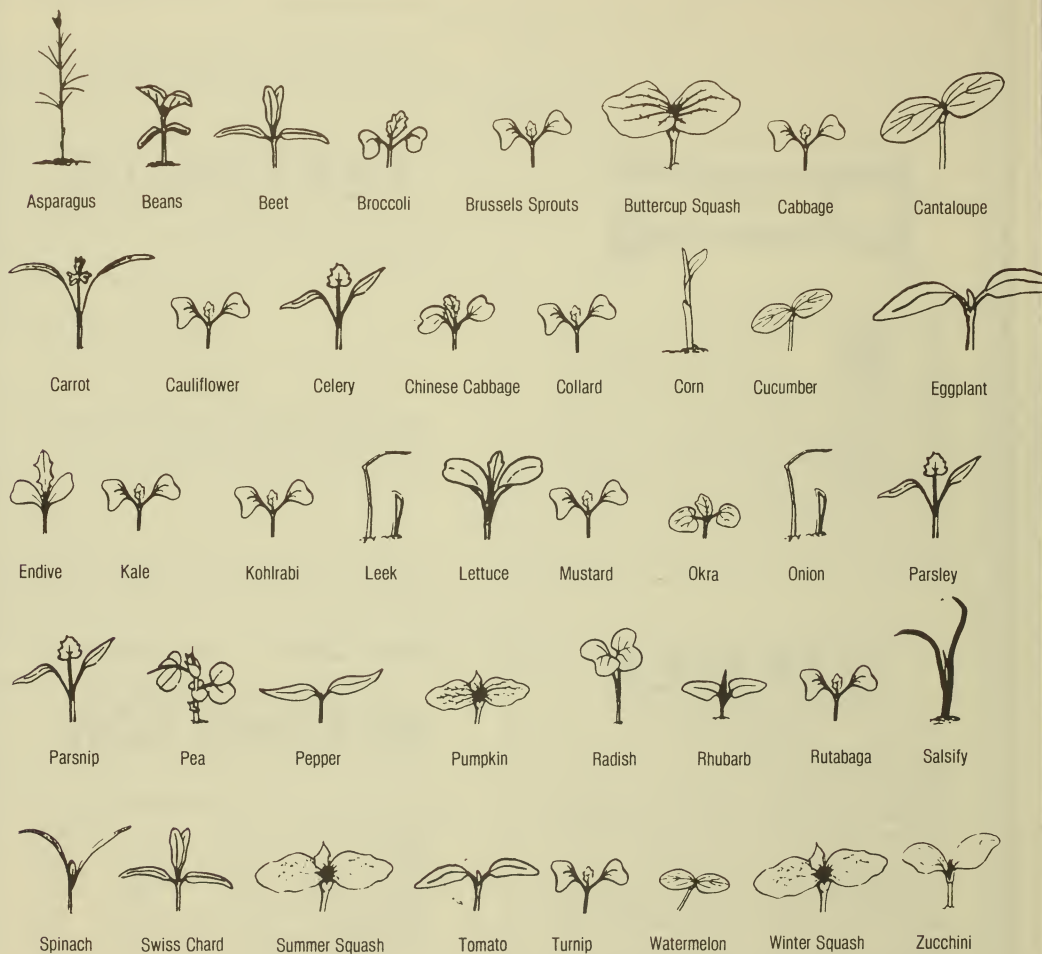


Summer savory



Thyme

## VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS



Drawings courtesy of *NORTHROP KING CO.*

Editor's note: So often gardeners, regardless of their age or experience, are puzzled by tiny seedlings—which are flowers, herbs, vegetables, or weeds. Take this reference with you into the garden when you weed and thin your plantings.

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All these books are in the horticulture library, San Diego Floral Association.

*Gardening with Biblical Plants:* Handbook for the Home Gardener, Wilma James. Nelson-Hall Publishers, 111 N. Canal St., Chicago, IL 60606, 1983. \$24.95

There has been a revival of interest in biblical plants, with many communities planting special gardens in which they are featured. In this book, Ms. James offers help to the individual gardener anywhere in the country who may want to grow these plants. She even suggests miniature scenes and container grown plants that can be wintered indoors in areas of unsuitable climates. Fortunately southern California has no such problem; almost every plant listed is one which will happily adopt outdoors here.

The book is divided into five sections: shrubs and trees; everyday food plants; herbs and spices; flowers of the field and garden, and water loving plants. Because biblical names are frequently misnomers, Ms. James includes only those plants whose identity has been established by agreement between botanists and theologians. A case in point: the biblical "mulberry tree" is identified as Aspen (*Populus euphratica*).

Each plant is prefaced with its scriptural passage, followed by biblical history and cultural advice. This creates a handy reference for those interested in specific plants, and serves as a most interesting handbook on the more than one hundred entries.

*The Flower Game*, Fleur Cowles, William Morrow and Company, Inc., New York, 1983. \$15.95

Despite a number of charming flower illustrations, *The Flower Game* remains simply an exercise, participated in by some 200 eminent Cowles friends, each of whom have chosen ten of their favorite flowers with which to populate a desert island. The book could be reduced to a tally of these selections, plus guest list, without losing much substance.

*The Ed Hume Garden Book*, Ed Hume, Harper and Row, New York, NY, 1983. Paperback, \$12.95.

Hume prefaces his table of contents with "What you really need to know about gardening but probably have never been told"—and this he delivers, but with a caveat: it is specifically oriented to the Pacific Northwest. Hume is a popular garden media person in his area—with reason. He is practical, knowledgeable and thorough. His book is divided into four seasonal sections, each covering the garden chores appropriate to that time period, including such specifics as drying flowers for summer arrangements, animals in the garden, autumn harvesting, and Christmas and plants. House plant needs are also discussed for each season.

Although there is much that would be applicable to southern California, an adaptation for our area, using the same format, is highly recommended.

*A Guide to Significant & Historic Gardens of America*, edited by Mary Helen Ray and Robert P. Nicholls, Agee Publishers. Available from: Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., 325 Lumpkin St., Athens, GA 30602, 1983. Paperback \$8.95 (plus \$1.50 postage).

This limited first edition is the joint handiwork of The Garden Club of Georgia (America's first) and the School of Environmental Design of the University of Georgia. All proceeds of the book will benefit a gardens fund and the above named school.

Gardens are listed by states and cities within the states, which sometimes poses problems. Thus Quail Gardens is listed under Encinitas, California, although a San Diego environs would presumably be more helpful to the tourist.

As its title suggests, the intent of the book is to list significant and historic gardens, providing excellent coverage of celebrated public gardens and well landscaped sites that are open to the public. For each listing there is a brief architectural note, description of outstanding horticultural features and relevant information on hours, fee, etc. Additionally, there is an informative introduction to each state, in which a bit of history is combined with facts about geography, climate and population.

*The Mountain Flowers of Southern Tanzania*, Dr. Phillip Cribb, and G. Philip Leedal. A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam, 1982. \$19.50

Bordered by Zambia and Malawi, southern Tanzania is regarded as one of the most interesting "floristic areas in tropical Africa." The book is an excellent, scholarly field guide to the common flowers growing therein. It has been compiled by Dr. Cribb, an orchid specialist from Kew (England), and Leedal, who has spent the last 25 years as a missionary in this Tanzania area. As you might expect, orchids are among the commonest flowers growing here, and constitute about 25 percent of the book entries.

*Habitat: Landscape Gardening*, Nicolau M. Rubio, first published 1978, Editorial Blume, Barcelona. Available from distributor, ISBS, Inc., P.O. Box 1632, Beaverton, OR 97075. \$14.95 plus \$1.75 shipping.

*Habitat* appears to be a tri-lingual (Spanish, French, English) *Sunset*, and like *Sunset*, it offers specialized soft-covered books. This one, on landscape gardening, presents superb color photos of some of the outstanding (primarily private) gardens to be found in Spain and Majorca. They were built on the grand scale, and span the last century. Rubio, architect and landscaper, uses the two poles of formal (geometric) and naturalistic design to explain the architectural and horticultural accomplishments of each garden chosen.



compiled by PENNY BUNKER

# NOW IS THE TIME

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES

## BEGONIAS MARGARET LEE

Now is the time

- to prune and shape plants, and encourage more side growth. Prune gradually, not more than 1/3 of the plant at one time to avoid shock.
- to remove all dried leaves, spent blooms, and dead wood.
- to start new cuttings, root leaves, or plant seeds.
- to mulch with a top dressing to make sure the roots are covered.
- to repot if soil is heavy and compact.
- to watch watering program, especially if no rain.
- Keep plants moist but not wet.
- to control insects or disease.
- to feed a good all-purpose plant food—use ¼ strength if feeding once a week, ½ strength if feeding twice a month, or full strength if once a month.

## BONSAI DR. HERBERT MARKOWITZ

Now is the time

- to gradually move bonsai into the sun. Deciduous trees which are beginning to sprout should be gradually exposed to the sun to avoid scorching new leaves.
- to watch watering program if there is insufficient rain.
- to keep trees protected from extreme cold. Place in garage or under cover.
- to repot plants and shape to conform to containers or design.
- to graft deciduous trees.
- to wait until April to feed; use high-nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high-phosphorous type to set flowers and fruit.
- to use ¼ strength fertilizer spaced several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only one time. Measure accurately, too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

## BROMELIADS LINDA PRELL

Now is the time

- to check plants for snails and slugs; distribute bait around plants—not in cups.
- to repot plants that have outgrown their containers.
- to remove pups that are at least 1/3 the size of the mother plant.
- to begin to feed plants as the warmer days signal the beginning of growing season. Use a balanced fertilizer at ¼ strength once a week (in a regular watering schedule if using liquid).

## CACTI & SUCCULENTS RICK LATIMER

Now is the time

- to start a watering and fertilizing program as new growth appears.
- to withhold water from some genera such as conophytums.
- to check succulents for their need of water. May spray only enough to keep roots alive to prevent extreme shriveling, depending on the needs of the particular plant.
- to begin watering summer-active succulents, such as most cacti, stapeliads, senecios, and anacampseros. Lithops may be watered after they have used up last year's leaves.
- to take immediate action if pests are discovered. Check in plant crevices, under leaves, along stems, roots, and buds.

## CAMELLIAS BENJAMIN BERRY

Now is the time

- to select and plant new varieties from the nursery while they are still in bloom.
- to make grafts.
- to maintain even moisture with weekly waterings if no rain.
- to do any transplanting not done last month.
- to protect late blooming varieties from hot sun as much as possible.
- to maintain a regular spraying program and dust

- with chlordane under and around plants to discourage leaf beetles.
- to remember not to fertilize a newly transplanted camellia, but water well and use vitamin B-1 solution.
- to keep fallen blossoms picked up to prevent an infestation of "petal blight."

#### **DAHLIAS ABE JANZEN**

Now is the time

- to start preparing the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer; use 2½ lbs each of superphosphate and sulfate of potash per 100 feet.
- to place tubers in starting medium such as vermiculite or sand.
- to check tubers for crown rot or soft spots and watch for too much moisture.
- to plant sprouted tubers, sprout-side-up, 6 inches below ground level, and 2 inches from stake. Cover with 2 inches of soil.
- to be sure to drive stakes into ground before planting tubers to prevent damaging them.
- to protect new growth from snails.

#### **EPIPHYLLUMS (ORCHID CACTUS) GEORGE FRENCH**

Now is the time

- to feed epiphyllums with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- to step-up watering, but soil must be well draining.
- to check trellis to be sure plant is well secured.
- to give plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.
- to bait for snails, especially during rainy or foggy weather.
- to check plants in April for drainage. Do not move plants at this time, but continue feeding for bloom.
- to take cuttings.
- to remove buds that may form on new plant; that energy needs to go to the root system.

#### **FERNS RAYMOND SODOMKA**

Now is the time

- to spray for aphids and scale.
- to remove dead fronds.
- to fertilize with high-nitrogen liquid or pellets.
- to divide, repot, or add leaf mold or equivalent.
- to water and keep surrounding areas damp to maintain humidity.
- to plant spores.

#### **FUCHSIAS WILLIAM SELBY**

Now is the time

- to prune plants not done earlier.
- to pinch new growth on plants that were pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves form on the new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This

- will give a bushier plant.
- to fertilize with any good balanced fertilizer.
- to watch for insects, and treat accordingly.
- to water thoroughly the day before spraying.
- to continue to take cuttings from prunings.
- to clean up fallen leaves, blossoms, and other trash.
- to shape plants in April to have a lovely plant for showtime.

#### **GERANIUMS CAROL ROLLER**

Now is the time

- to water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using at half the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants growing well.
- to continue a pest control and a disease prevention program using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
- to selectively prune and pinch zonals and ivies for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals because the flowers will be lost by pruning at this time.
- to remove faded flowers and discolored leaves.
- to continue to rotate plants to produce well-shaped plants.
- to enjoy your geraniums at the height of their season.

#### **GESNERIADS (AFRICAN VIOLET IS FAMILIAR ONE) MIKE LUDWIG**

Now is the time

- to practice good housekeeping by keeping growing areas and plants clean. Trim, repot, and check for pests also.
- to make sure to water and fertilize more as active growth begins.
- to repot root-bound plants; cut off all dead roots that look brown and soft.
- to trim plants and take cuttings.
- to spray growing areas for mildew and mold.
- to spray for aphids before new growth starts; bait for slugs and snails.
- to fertilize in April with trace elements if plants were not repotted earlier. This will replace elements lost in watering.
- to have fresh soil ready for planting seedlings and to use when transplanting.

#### **IRIS SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY**

Now is the time

- to clean beds and keep weeds under control.
- to water regularly if no rain.
- to start feeding low-nitrogen, all-purpose, or liquid fish fertilizer.
- to watch for pests—systemic sprays applied as a

drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips. to give Japanese and Louisianas acid food; camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

#### ORCHIDS CHARLIE FOUQUETTE

Now is the time

- to move cymbidiums into a protected shaded area as they come into bloom.
- to feed cymbidiums with a 30-10-10 fertilizer and give them as much light as possible-without burning the foliage for better flowering next season.
- to check cymbidiums for needed repotting and/or dividing. Do as soon as possible to give new growth time to mature before next blooming season.
- to repot cattleyas that are showing new "eyes."
- to check moisture in pots of phals and cattleyas—do not be fooled by gray overcast days.
- to be extra careful when watering phalaenopsis so water does not remain in the crown overnight.
- to be alert for cold drafts or sudden temperature drop that causes bud blasting.
- to check for slugs and snails, especially after a rain.
- to water early in the day so plants will be dry by nightfall.
- to feed nobile dendrobiums diluted Hi-Bloom if buds are starting at leaf node (joint).

#### ROSES BRIAN DONN

Now is the time

- to feed established bushes with a balanced rose food every 3 to 4 weeks, except when in full bloom.
- to give newly planted bushes that seem to be growing slowly, a root-stimulant such as Hormex or SuperThrive.
- to water generously, weekly if rainfall is light.
- to keep foliage beautiful control disease and pests. Orthene and Funginex which can be mixed and applied in one application, may be used about every ten days. These may also be used to eliminate thrips which cause brown "freckles" and streaks on petals.

#### VEGETABLES GEORGE JAMES

Now is the time

- to start seeds of beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, summer squash and tomatoes in pots in a warm place. Plant in the garden in April and May.
- to set started plants of Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, onions, lettuce and collards.
- to plant onion sets and cloves of garlic.
- to protect seedlings from frost and rain with translucent covers.

#### GREEN THUMB REMINDERS

Now is the time

- to prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees; use the branches for arrangements to enjoy in the home. After blooming, mulch with leaf mold and manure and water well.
- to finish planting bare-root trees and shrubs in March.
- to cut back poinsettias, removing all last year's growth to within two joints of the old wood.
- to divide chrysanthemums. Make divisions and take cuttings from old plants.
- to set out annuals such as zinnias, pansies, marigolds, and petunias for spring and early summer color.
- to plant perennials—carnations, gerberas, marguerites, Shasta daisies.
- to tie up foliage of daffodils and narcissi for neatness. Do not cut off until it has withered and dried; leaves feed bulbs for next season's flowers.
- to feed nearly everything in March and April.
- to feed lawns in April.

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# HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

APR 14, 15

**RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB'S FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE**  
 "A Floral Tribute to the 1984 Olympics"  
 Village Center, Avenida Acacia & Granada, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.  
 Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free

APR 15

**CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB'S 35TH ANNUAL ROSE SHOW**  
 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
 Sunday: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free

APR 21, 22

**EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY'S 6TH ANNUAL SHOW**  
 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
 Sat. & Sun: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free

APR 23, 24, 25, 26

**CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
 Hyatt Islandia Hotel, Mission Bay, San Diego  
 Monday through Thursday — Chairman, Mrs. B. B. Puddy 487-2038

APR 28, 29

**CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION 59TH ANNUAL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW & GARDEN TOUR**  
 "America on View" — Spreckels Park, Orange Avenue (Between 6th & 7th), Coronado, Calif.  
 Sat: 1:15 to 5:30 p.m.; Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Donation: \$1.50 (adults); 25¢ (children)

APR 28, 29

**SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY 19TH SPRING SHOW "Iris Olympiad"**  
 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
 Sat: 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free

MAY 1, 2, 3

**"ART ALIVE — A CELEBRATION OF FLOWERS"**  
 Sponsored by: San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park, San Diego  
 Tue., Wed., & Thurs: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MAY 5, 6

**DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB STANDARD FLOWER SHOW "Love in Bloom"**  
 Valley Center Community Church, 29105 Valley Center Rd., Valley Center, Calif.  
 Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free

MAY 5, 6

**SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY "GREEN THUMB" SHOW**  
 San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Rd., Escondido, Calif.  
 Sat. & Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MAY 5, 6

**SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB 18TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW**  
 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego  
 Sat. & Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free

MAY 6

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDEN'S ANNUAL SPRING BAZAAR**  
 Quail Botanical Garden, Ecke Family Bldg., 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas, Calif.  
 Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free

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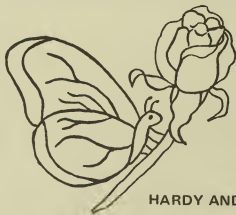


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MARCH 23	JUDGING AND PREVIEW NIGHT
MARCH 24 & 25	OPEN TO PUBLIC

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